

To the members of the committee:

I am very grateful for the opportunity to sit here before you and speak about an issue that is so profoundly important to myself and to hundreds of millions of American citizens. I will remember 12/14/12 for the rest of my life. All of us will. It is burned into our souls I feel just as deeply as 9/11. The fact that something so terrible could happen in our state; things will never be the same again. How do we restore a feeling of safety that we took for granted on December 13, 2012?

I'm a psychiatric nurse, and I can tell you that the mental health system in Connecticut is under duress. There are more patients needing care with less dollars available to provide that care. Let's be honest, mental health is never looked at as a main priority anyway. The state had already planned on cuts for this year and revised them only after the tragedy had occurred. But what about next year? When the budget has to be made again, will the consequences in denying services to the mentally ill be kept in mind, or will you only care about balancing the budget?

The cheap and easy answer is gun control. With well over 100 bills being proposed at this time, its easy to gather that that is the direction the government wants to go. But please ask yourselves this: our state was already the fourth strictest in the country for gun control prior to Sandy Hook. It didn't stop Adam Lanza from his savagery. Do you really feel that there is any law that can be legislated that will stop a criminal or a mad man from committing horrible acts once they've decided to do so? Aren't criminals and mad men notorious for not following the law in the first place? That's why gun control laws can't work. The only people that listen and obey them are the law abiding citizens.

The second amendment of the constitution of the United States of America and article 1 section 15 of the constitution of Connecticut state we have the right to bear arms. On June 26, 2008, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that this right should not be infringed upon. Please be guided by that decision and uphold your oaths to our constitution and do not pass an ineffective law that infringes upon our rights. Thankyou for your consideration.

Patrick Crean